Leicester, Sept. 29. 1876.

Dear friend Webb,

A letter from Ade went to you by Wednesday's Steamer (doubtless) wh. wd. inform you of Mrs. May's safe arrival at home; — a letter wh. Ade had previously almost finishd, & to which she had time to add that information, after seeing her Mother, introducing her to the inside of the house again, & accompanying her across the way to Dr Flint's, where she went, to see old Mr. Emerson (who was extremely impatient & couldn't wait a minute) & the rest of them, before taking off her bonnet. — I lookd. for the Ship — (being in Boston) — on Sunday, a very little; altho' at the St. ship office they told me the chances of her coming then were not more than "one in a million". On Monday, I was somewhat expectant; and at evening went over to East Boston & took a room at the principal hotel there (the Maverick House) wh. is pretty near the Steamship dock & remaind. on the occasional lookout until midnight. I took an early breakfast next morning, & was just returning to the City at 7½ A.M. (to be near the Marine Telegraph office, where news of approaching vessels is recd. from 2 to 5 hours before their arrival), when I saw the "Siberia" looming up, large & long, directly before the Ferry ways. Of course, I directed my ~~course~~ steps to the St. ship wharf & yard, (to wh. I had ticket of admission,) and was on board the Ship as soon as she was warped into the dock. I was glad to see Mrs. May looking very "natural"; she is very little changed any way, except that all think her a little stouter, and she was burnt, by being on the water. The passage was called an excellent one, & for the most part smooth; but to her it was only discomfort, until the last 3 or 4 days, when, she said, she might be said to have measurably enjoyed the sea, & the air, & the sun's warmth. On the day before her arrival, she found it as warm and pleasant as she desired. The

Ship actually arrived off Boston Light the evening of the day before, monday 25th came to anchor, & started to came up slowly, through quite a fog, at about sunrise; but, though slowly, fast enough to cut into a schooner, lying at anchor directly across her course, & ~~much~~ injure her badly, - the only misadventure of the voyage. There were some 90 cabin passengers, & over 400 steerage. Miss Lucy Sewall (dau. of Saml. E. S., of Boston,) the young lady M.D., who had been absent 4 mos., spending the time at Edinburgh chiefly, was among the number, whom she knew well, and several other Bostonians of whom she knew something; and others, very pleasant, whose acquaintance she made; - about whom I dare say she will tell you something, when she writes. At present, as she desires me to say, her hands & thoughts are so fully occupied, that it will be some days before she is "settled" enough, to do any but business writing. — There was very great delay in getting her luggage ~~thro'~~ the Custom House examination; ~~chiefly~~ owing partly to Edward's coming from the Navy Yard, (in the Steam Tug belonging to the Yard) _ bringing Russell with him (for the Ship's arrival became known to them at breakfast time) - and taking his mother directly to the Navy Yard, where she first touched American terra firma again. But she ~~had~~ carried off all her keys with her, & so I had to ~~[illegible]~~ take the hack (wh. I had already engaged for her) & drive around to the Yard, & bring herself (to make the "Declaration") & her keys back ~~back~~ again. Then a good part of an hour was spent in searching for her "impedimenta" - well called in this case - for one box could not be found (that which contained some German table linen she was bringing for Edward's housekeeping, &c. &c.) - and was not found; & we can only conclude that it didn't come at all in the "Siberia", - & so look for it next week. Everything else was right; & we had no occasion to fret much; but I should not have borne seeing several of her trunks launched overboard with the equanimity & patience which S. J. M. showed at Birkenhead, — [thank you for re-writing that circumstance & sending it to me; — it happened that I got a note from Alfred Wilkinson, enclosing yours to him, at the same time — Yr. letter to him, as I suspected, had got mislaid, — shut in a book. Of his little Josie he says — "she rides out daily & is gaining — wounds not yet healed — but Dr. C. says the ankle bone has healed," & they expect to have her "on her feet in course of another week." It was 6 weeks (Sept. 22d) since the injury occurred.]

Very soon Edward had to tell his mother of his new orders to the Sandwich Islands (of wh. I have written to you), and the information disconcerted her a good deal; but she has taken it much more calmly than I feared, upon the whole. — In the aftn. she went to see my mother, where my bro: John & his wife went to meet her also; — we all dined together at 6 o'clk (this included Bessie who had gone with me to meet her Mother in Boston), — and Mary Blodgett was brought by Edwd. to spend the evening with us; and next morning we very comfortably made the journey to Leicr.

Now I should be ashamed of sending you all these details, if you had not so many times said, & so kindly, that you like to hear all about us; and I feel especially sure that everything about Mrs. May's return home will be welcome to you. She has had a very warm welcome from all; but is, & long will be I suppose, much more of an European than American in her thoughts & talk. You won't like it if we thank you & Deborah, for all your attentions, hospitality, & kindness to her, — ever since she has been abroad indeed, but more particularly in Dublin. Nevertheless we do all of us thank you both very heartily; and your brother Thomas also; and all the friends in Dublin who, as she says, "loaded her with attentions and kindness."

Among the 7 pieces of her luggage which came to L
one was the case containing the picture wh. you sent to E
I opened it yesterday morng, & found it had come safe
in good condition every way. As E. ~~has no~~ will have n
house of his own, after a very few weeks, it was decided
best that we bring it to L. with us, & take care of it
until he has a house to put it in. I suppose you k
nothing of the artist, or the history of the picture, — or you
have mention.d it. — E.'s wedding-day draws on apace
Wednesday next,

I believe Ade. wrote you the latest information we
concerning W. L. G. Jr. His injuries were very serious
and it is a matter for wonder in the circumstances th
he is alive. His brother George thought, a few days ago,
he wd. scarcely get about again all the winter.

— The Extract from Miss Martineau's "Society in
is very valuable, and I thank you much for it. M
likely we should have got it, but still it might have bee
overlooked, — Is the Extract in H. M.'s own hand?

— We are very sorry to hear of Alfred's illness; it
an unfortunate termination of his little journey. W
trust to hear very soon of his complete recovery. Le
him not be too hard upon himself, in respect of rest,
& exercise, — & have enough of each. Same of yourse
i.e. as to the food! Mr. May wants you to take a glass of win
daily. That is one of the uses of total abstinence thro' life; t
as the forces of life lag, when we approach the "3 score and
a very "little wine" will do the "stomach" good. Paul w
mistaken, I am inclined to think, in recommending it to T
so early in life; but I doubt not he needed it himself, an
not having given especial thought to the Wine & Liquor question, did

Consider that his wine might not be needful for "his son" Timothy;

Ms. B.1.6 v.11 p.16

I note that I am indebted to you £12.18.0. This shall soon be attended to, — first time I go to Boston, where I shall buy a bill of exchge. Mrs. May has one (or perhaps 2) other small amts. to send, and I advise her to ~~enclose~~ include all in one bill, though it may give you a little trouble to forward the same.

Yr. note written the day of Mrs. M.'s leaving you, — and on yr. return from seeing her into the train — came duly to hand, as you will infer. She desires me to say to you that she found *Mrs. Bolton* very pleasant She came to Mrs. M.'s state-room & introduced herself, — she "appeared very delicate".

But I have 5 or 6 other letters to write; and it is but a little over an hour before mail-time.

Ms. B.1.6 v.11, p. 16